

Appendix A

Status of Claims and Support for Claim Changes

With the Changes Made within this "3rd Amendment" Shown in Bold

Claims	Status and Comments
Claim 1-37	Canceled
<p>38. (Twice Amended) A method for feeding masa to a pair of aligned, opposed sheeter rollers, the sheeter rollers located adjacent to a masa hopper having an opening for receiving masa [7 walls, and a bottom wall defining] and a slot for [dispensing] dispensing masa, the masa hopper also having at least one shaft above the slot, each shaft having a projection, the method comprising the steps of:</p> <p>placing the masa through the opening in the masa hopper;</p> <p>feeding the masa to at least one shaft; and</p> <p>forcing the masa through the slot, toward the sheeter rollers, with the projection on at least one shaft.</p>	<p>Pending</p> <p>1st Amendment: Figure 7 shows the slot 116. As described in the original specification, the shaft's projections "drive the masa 74 through the slot 116 so it can be rolled." See column 8, lines 16-19. The arrows in Figure 7 graphically represent this dispensing action.</p> <p>2nd Amendment: Changes correct a typographical error ("dispensing" to "dispensing")</p>

Claims	Status and Comments
<p>39. The method for feeding masa defined in Claim 38 comprising the further step of:</p> <p>removing gas bubbles from the masa with the projection on at least one shaft.</p>	Pending
<p>40. The method for feeding masa as defined in Claim 38, wherein said feeding is accomplished by gravity.</p>	Pending
<p>41. (Amended) The method for feeding masa as defined in Claim 38, wherein said [rotating] <u>forcing</u> is accomplished by <u>rotating the shaft with</u> a motor.</p>	<p>Pending</p> <p>1st Amendment: Figure 8 shows the motor 148.</p>

Claims	Status and Comments
<p>42. (Amended) The method for feeding masa as defined in claim 38, wherein the masa hopper also has a pair of opposed, horizontally[,] aligned, primary rollers between the slot and the sheeter rollers, the primary rollers each having a generally cylindrical surface and two ends, the method further comprising the steps of:</p> <p>rotating the primary rollers;</p> <p>drawing the masa between the primary rollers;</p> <p>compressing the masa into a generally uniform curtain; and</p> <p>feeding said uniform curtain into the sheeter rollers.</p>	<p>Pending</p> <p>1st Amendment: Changes correct a typographical error (deleting extraneous comma).</p>
<p>43. The method for feeding masa defined in Claim 42, wherein there is a scraper for each primary roller, each scraper having a blade pivotally mounted and biased to longitudinally ride on the lower surface of its associated primary roller, the method further comprising the step of:</p> <p>separating masa from the lower surface of each of the primary rollers.</p>	<p>Pending</p>

Claims	Status and Comments
<p>44. (Amended) The method for feeding masa as defined in claim 42, wherein the masa hopper also has two endcaps, each endcap mounted around the ends of the primary rollers, the method further comprising the step of:</p> <p>preventing [the] movement of the masa past the ends of the primary rollers.</p>	<p>Pending</p> <p>1st Amendment: Changes correct a typographical error (deleting "the").</p>
<p>45. (Amended) A method for feeding masa to a pair of aligned, opposed sheeter rollers, the sheeter rollers located adjacent to a masa hopper having an opening for receiving masa [- walls, and a bottom wall defining] and a slot for dispensing <u>masa</u>, the masa hopper also having at least one shaft above the slot, each shaft having a projection, the method comprising the steps of:</p> <p>placing the masa through the opening in the masa hopper;</p> <p>feeding the masa to at least one shaft; and</p> <p>removing gas bubbles from the masa with the projection on at least one shaft.</p>	<p>Pending.</p> <p>1st Amendment: As to support for the changes, see comments re claim 38.</p>

Claims	Status and Comments
<p>46. The method for feeding masa defined in Claim 45 comprising the further step of:</p> <p>forcing the masa through the slot, toward the sheeter rollers, with the projection on at least one shaft.</p>	Pending
<p>47. The method for feeding masa as defined in Claim 45, wherein said feeding is accomplished by gravity.</p>	Pending
<p>48. (Amended) The method for feeding masa as defined in Claim 45, wherein said rotating removing is accomplished by <u>rotating the shaft with a motor</u>.</p>	<p>Pending</p> <p>1st Amendment: Figure 8 shows the motor 148.</p> <p>3rd Amendment: "forcing" changed to "removing" to due to lack of antecedent for "forcing" in Claim 45.</p>

Claims	Status and Comments
<p>49. (Amended) The method for feeding masa as defined in claim 45, wherein the masa hopper also has a pair of opposed, horizontally[,] aligned, primary rollers between the slot and the sheeter rollers, the primary rollers each having a generally cylindrical surface and two ends, the method further comprising the steps of:</p> <p>rotating the primary rollers;</p> <p>drawing the masa between the primary rollers;</p> <p>compressing the masa into a generally uniform curtain; and</p> <p>feeding said uniform curtain into the sheeter rollers.</p>	<p>Pending</p> <p>1st Amendment: Changes correct a typographical error (deleting extraneous comma).</p>
<p>50. The method for feeding masa defined in Claim 49, wherein there is a scraper for each primary roller, each scraper having a blade pivotally mounted and biased to longitudinally ride on the lower surface of its associated primary roller, the method further comprising the step of:</p> <p>separating masa from the lower surface of each of the primary rollers.</p>	<p>Pending</p>

Claims	Status and Comments
<p>51. (Amended) The method for feeding masa as defined in claim 49, wherein the masa hopper also has two endcaps, each endcap mounted around the ends of the primary rollers, the method further comprising the step of:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">preventing [the] movement of the masa past the ends of the primary rollers.</p>	<p>Pending</p> <p>Changes correct a typographical error (deleting "the").</p>
<p>52. (Amended) A method for feeding masa to a pair of aligned, opposed sheeter rollers, the sheeter rollers located adjacent to a masa hopper having an opening for receiving masa [-walls, and a bottom wall defining] and a slot <u>for dispensing masa</u>, the masa hopper also having at least one shaft above the slot, each shaft having a projection, the method comprising the steps of:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">placing the masa through the opening in the masa hopper;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">feeding the masa to at least one shaft;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">removing gas bubbles from the masa with the projection on at least one shaft; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">forcing the masa through the slot, toward the sheeter rollers, with the projection on at least one shaft.</p>	<p>Pending.</p> <p>1st Amendment: As to support for the changes, see comments re claim 38.</p>

Claims	Status and Comments
53. The method for feeding masa as defined in Claim 52, wherein said feeding is accomplished by gravity.	Pending
54. (Amended) The method for feeding masa as defined in Claim 52, wherein said rotating forcing is accomplished by <u>rotating the shaft with</u> a motor.	Pending 1 st Amendment: Figure 8 shows the motor 148.
55. (Amended) The method for feeding masa as defined in claim 52, wherein the masa hopper also has a pair of opposed, horizontally[,] aligned, primary rollers between the slot and the sheeter rollers, the primary rollers each having a generally cylindrical surface and two ends, the method further comprising the steps of: rotating the primary rollers; drawing the masa between the primary rollers; compressing the masa into a generally uniform curtain; and feeding said uniform curtain into the sheeter rollers.	Pending 1 st Amendment: Changes correct a typographical error (deleting extraneous comma).

Claims	Status and Comments
<p>56. The method for feeding masa defined in Claim 55, wherein there is a scraper for each primary roller, each scraper having a blade pivotally mounted and biased to longitudinally ride on the lower surface of its associated primary roller, the method further comprising the step of:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">separating masa from the lower surface of each of the primary rollers.</p>	<p>Pending</p>
<p>57. (Amended) The method for feeding masa as defined in claim 55, wherein the masa hopper also has two endcaps, each endcap mounted around the ends of the primary rollers, the method further comprising the step of:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">preventing the movement of the masa past the ends of the primary rollers.</p>	<p>Pending</p> <p>Changes correct a typographical error (deleting "the").</p>

Claims	Status and Comments
<p><u>58. (new) A method for feeding masa to a pair of aligned, opposed sheeter rollers, the sheeter rollers located adjacent to a masa hopper for receiving masa and an opening at a bottom end of the hopper for dispensing masa, the masa hopper also having at least one shaft above the opening, each shaft having a projection, the method comprising the steps of:</u></p> <p><u>placing the masa into the masa hopper;</u></p> <p><u>feeding the masa to at least one shaft; and</u></p> <p><u>moving the masa out of the opening of the hopper, toward the sheeter rollers, with the projection on at least one shaft.</u></p>	<p>2nd Amendment: As to support for the changes, see comments re claim 38. In light of an alleged infringer's contentions regarding certain unreasonably narrow constructions that should be given the subject terms, Applicant has remove the "side walls" and "bottom wall" in the recitation of "hopper" (as with the other claims), and has also replaced "slot" with "opening" and "forcing" with "moving."</p>
<p><u>59. (New)The method for feeding masa as defined in Claim 58, wherein said feeding is accomplished by gravity.</u></p>	<p>Pending</p>
<p><u>60. (New)The method for feeding masa as defined in Claim 58, wherein said moving is accomplished by rotating the shaft with a motor.</u></p>	<p>Pending</p>

Claims	Status and Comments
<p><u>61. (New)The method for feeding masa as defined in claim 58, wherein the masa hopper also has a pair of opposed, horizontally aligned, primary rollers between the opening and the sheeter rollers, the primary rollers each having a generally cylindrical surface and two ends, the method further comprising the steps of:</u></p> <p><u>rotating the primary rollers;</u></p> <p><u>drawing the masa between the primary rollers;</u></p> <p><u>compressing the masa into a generally uniform curtain; and</u></p> <p><u>feeding said uniform curtain into the sheeter rollers.</u></p>	<p>Pending</p>
<p><u>62. (New)The method for feeding masa defined in Claim 61, wherein there is a scraper for each primary roller, each scraper having a blade pivotally mounted and biased to longitudinally ride on the lower surface of its associated primary roller, the method further comprising the step of:</u></p> <p><u>separating masa from the lower surface of each of the primary rollers.</u></p>	<p>Pending</p>

Claims	Status and Comments
<p>63. (New) <u>The method for feeding masa as defined in claim 61, wherein the masa hopper also has two endcaps, each endcap mounted around the ends of the primary rollers, the method further comprising the step of:</u></p> <p><u>preventing movement of the masa past the ends of the primary rollers.</u></p>	